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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Economic and Agricultural Information

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1. In April 1951 in the Wonsan area food was very scarce. The planting season started about the second week in April, since the season is about three weeks behind that in Pusan. The main crops planted were rice, barley, corn, beans, wheat, and millet. Residents expected that the rice crop would be harvested in October and that the others would be harvested between June and August. Products of all kinds were very scarce in the Wonsan area, but there was little blackmarket activity because of strict government controls. Farming in the area was on an individual basis, and no attempt at collectivization had been made.
2. In July in the Haeju area, about 20 trucks were engaged in transporting various foodstuffs, such as potatoes, unhulled rice, and refined rice, from the neighborhood association offices, which are the lowest governmental administration units and which had collected the stuffs as advance payment of the tax in kind for the next taxation term.
3. In the Yonan (126-10, 37-54) (BS 5198) area in July, electric power was available to civilian homes for three days. North Korean authorities collected ten hops of rice from each household for this service.
4. Yearly production of the Kuisong salt fields in Yonggang-gun (125-11, 38-48) (XC 9096) was approximately 72,000 tons of salt, according to estimates in July 1951. The Wonsaeng-ni fields are the largest, and are estimated to produce about 60,000 tons yearly; the Kumjong-ni (125-10, 38-48) fields produce the remainder. In July the North Korean officials had mobilized labor to work these fields from all persons from 16 to 60 years of age in Yonggang-gun. At Wonsaeng-ni there were 960 laborers, 120 labor squad leaders, and 120 labor bosses. At Kumjong-ni there were 200 laborers, 24 squad leaders, and 24 labor bosses. About half of the total production of these fields was being shipped to Antung, Manchuria.

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5. The North Korean government is attempting to induce refugees to return to North Korea, claiming that the 1951 harvest is the best ever. Also they are forcing the families of the North Korean deserters to the south to persuade the people to return to North Korea.

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6. In mid-September in the Hamhung area, a rice ration was authorized for families of soldiers; the ration consisted of 80 percent of millet and 20 percent of rice.

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1. Comment. One hop is about two-tenths of a liter or one-sixth of one pound of rice.

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